

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### **ALABAMA TROOPERS CONTINUE EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN MOBILE COUNTY AND MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST**

MONTGOMERY — More than a week after Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the gulf coast, Alabama state troopers continue to assist with emergency response in coastal Mobile County and in the Mississippi gulf coast region, according to Department of Public Safety Director Col. Mike Coppage.

Coppage said troopers were continuing security patrols and victim assistance in heavily damaged areas of Mobile County, including Bayou La Batre, Dauphin Island and Alabama Port. He said approximately 75 troopers were also in Mississippi to assist local law enforcement agencies in several heavily damaged communities south of Interstate 10.

Troopers with the Highway Patrol and ABI divisions were dispatched to Mississippi last week following a request for assistance issued by Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour and the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Coppage said the initial search and rescue operation expanded to include security patrols designed to prevent looting, enforce curfews and facilitate the distribution of food, water and other supplies to storm victims.

He praised the efforts of Public Safety members assisting with the emergency response effort, as well as those arresting officers and nonsworn DPS staff working to maintain essential services throughout Alabama.

“The dedicated men and women of Public Safety’s six divisions – ABI, Administrative, Driver License, Highway Patrol, Service and Protective Services – are all putting forth a tremendous effort to fill in and provide back up for DPS staff members assigned to emergency response areas,” said Coppage.

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